BIGFOOT BULLETIN

September 30, 1970 No. 21

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"BUSHMAN" EXPEDITION TO THE YUKON

BOB BETTS, smoke-jumper for the U.S. Forest Service out of Fairbanks, Alaska, together with Jim McClarin of Willow Creek, California, and two others have been camped in an abandoned fish camp near an Indian village on the Yukon River since September 12 hoping to make contact with a "Bushman" as the local Indians call the Sasquatch. Betts first heard of the fish camp, its possibilities and its sinister reputation from local Indians who worked for him when he was fire boss on a large fire north of the Kobuck River in July. They are fully equipped with still and movie cameras, tape recorders, tranquilizer equipment, an arm trap and plaster for casts. To date we have received the following reports from Bob Betts from the field :

September 9th. Fairbanks. "Feel free to go ahead and print a preliminary report in the Bulletin and any reports we send you from the field. After we come back to Fairbanks and if we are unsuccessful, I'll type up a complete report along with the name of the village and its location and send it to you."

September 11th. Indian Village on the Yukon. "This is just a quick note to let you know Jim arrived in Fairbanks and we left the following morning in a Grumman Goose for the small village on the Yukon River about an hour and a half flight time west of Fairbanks. The village has about 100 people in it and sits on the south side of the river. We rented a small cabin for $10 a week to use for a base camp in the village. We spent the first day moving into the cabin and making contacts in the village for boat transportation and also buying salmon to use for bait.

"We've interviewed several people concerning the Bushman. This morning Jim and I hired a boat and went down river to see Paul Peter, the only person living anywhere near the fish camp abandoned by Lloyd Dewilde after he saw two hairy upright-walking Bushmen. Paul Peter told us of an encounter he had with a Bushman 'many years ago' at his camp. He said it was covered with black hair and about the same height as Jim McClarin but much broader across the chest.

"Peter's wife, Mary, said that earlier this summer she had gone to the smokehouse and something had thrown a small rock against the smokehouse. She said that a rock had been thrown at her a month earlier while she was walking along the bank of the river. She attributed this rock throwing to the Bushman. A number of other people in the village have told of rock-throwing incidents.

"I showed Paul Peter pictures from Patterson's movie and he said the Bushman looked just the same. I showed him photographs of tracks

from California and he said he had seen similar tracks.

"We heard second hand of a woman who saw what she thought was a bear swimming across a slough. She went to get a gun but it had reached the shore and disappeared by the time she got back to the spot. She found the spot where it came out of the water and its tracks were not those of a bear but rather were large human-like tracks.

"Tomorrow, Jim McClarin, Pearce and I are going down the river to Dewilde's old camp to set up our field camp. We're taking Jim's hand trap with us along with dried salmon for bait. Paul Peter said he thought it was a little late in the year but that there was still a possibility of seeing one.

"Everyone around here has been afraid to go down to Dewilde's camp after he was scared out by the Bushman four years ago. I don't know if we'll find anything down there but it's worth a try."

September 14th. Dewilde's Camp. "I'm writing this by candle light from a small cabin at Dewilde's camp. McClarin, Pearce and I arrived here by boat two days ago. It's been several years since anyone has lived here (the Indians are afraid of the place) and the main cabin is in a pretty bad state of repair. We found a smaller cabin about 50 yards back into the brush that we fixed up and made quite livable.

"We have three bait stations set up on game trails in the area. These consist of salmon hanging from trees which are out of reach of bears. These we check each morning to see if anything has taken them. Our fourth station is down by Dewilde's old smokehouse and is Jim's hand trap baited with salmon. By the way, Jim's trap really works. Jim wrapped his hand and arm up yesterday and stuck it in the trap to see if he could pull his arm out - he couldn't !

"Jim and I are in the cabin now and Pearce is sitting in the dark outside. We have a full moon tonight and a clear sky. Tonight Pearce has the first watch from 9 o'clock until midnight. Jim is next from midnight until 3 and I take it from 3 until dawn. The person on watch merely sits in the dark in front of the cabin and stays alert. Upon hearing any strange noise he first turns on the tape recorder and then wakes us up if he has time. If something is approaching the cabin, he has a powerful flashlight and a flash camera and a 30-06 standing next to him. So far, the first two nights have been quiet and nothing has touched the salmon. There's lots of bear, moose and wolf sign around but no Sasquatch so far !

"We found out that this place (Dewilde's camp) has had a "Bushman" incident prior to Dewilde's. The first person to build a cabin here was a man named John McQuire, nicknamed "Dutchman" by the local Indians. This was in the 1930s. The Dutchman lived here alone with just his dogs. In 1943, as the story goes, the Dutchman made his way by boat into the nearest village saying that he had been attacked by the Bushman at his camp but that his dogs had chased the creature away before it could kill him. The Dutchman died a short time later from internal hemorrhages as a result of that attack. The Indians were afraid to live here after the Dutchman's story got around. It wasn't until the early 1960s that Lloyd Dewilde, a white man, came to build another cabin here. As near as we can figure, it was in August of 1965 that Dewilde had two Sasquatch come up to his cabin. That scared Dewilde off and no one will even stay here overnight anymore - except us.

"Well, I'd better get some sleep before my watch. I'll write again in a few days. With any luck I'll get this letter off tomorrow when Culbertson comes down by boat to check on us and to replace Pearce who will be going back into base camp." -- Bob Betts.

SIGHTING IN SKAMANIA COUNTY (WASHINGTON) AGAIN

JOHN GREEN writes (September 10, 1970) : "I called on Mrs. Louise Baxter, Skamania, Washington, who said she had seen a Sasquatch on August 19, in the late afternoon about a mile west of Skamania. It was standing behind bushes near the road. She had got out of her car because she thought a tire was thumping. It appeared to be eating something it had in one fist, but she didn't see what. She was only 10 yards or so away. It had the typical shape and was covered with brown hair. She thought it was 10 to 12 feet tall. She had also seen one in November of 1969, about three miles west of North Bonneville on the highway at night, a dark grey creature about 8 feet tall. Oddly she saw this one only from the chest down, because of the headlights, while she saw the later one only from the chest up, above the bushes. There were no clear tracks either time, but last June (1970) her husband, Leroy, saw tracks about two miles north of Skamania in dust in a clearing, two prints only, about 18 3/4" long."

WANTED : INFORMATION ON "OLD YELLOW TOP"

PHIL D. SMITH, Twenty-nine Palms, California, writes (September 25, 1970) : "Your Canadian friends may know about this. While at Trail, B.C., we heard a doctor from Cobalt (?) talking with a reporter about 'Old Yellow Top', a local Bigfoot (?) which had been seen around there for a dozen years. It seems that this area was being explored this year by many rock hounds and for safety 'Yellow Top' had moved closer to town. The doctor and the local people were becoming concerned about him. Now, I couldn't find Cobalt on any maps or town listings in B.C., Alberta, Washington or Montana. There is one in Idaho but far from Trail." (If anyone knows anything about "Old Yellow Top" or the location of Cobalt, please let us know. --Editor.)

FREE ADVERTISEMENT ! : Goldblatt's Dept. Stores in Chicago are selling 3-foot long "Bigfoot Rugs". "Take a giant step on a fluff of fun" the ad reads. (Credit : Loren E. Coleman)

THE KRASNEY EXPEDITION

The Ken Krasney Expedition into the Bluff Creek area in northern California ended on September 9th without finding any trace of Bigfoot. However, enough movie film was shot of the expedition's activities, the scenery and of filmed interviews to make a good documentary.

RECENT PUBLISHED ITEMS OF INTEREST

NATIONAL WILDLIFE, October-November 1970,"has an interesting and up to date article on Bigfoot and tracking attempts. It primarily concerns the Morgan expedition around the Washington state area."-John Poole.

SEATTLE MAGAZINE, August-September 1970, had an article on the Sasquatch. (Credit : Rene Dahinden)

SAUCERS, SPACE AND SCIENCE, No. 59, 1970. Published by Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, a UFO magazine, has a two-page article titled "On The Trail of the Sasquatch". Illustrated. Single copies 75¢.

KLAM-ITY KOURIER, Willow Creek, California, September 23, 1970. "Report On Bigfoot." The Ken Krasney Expedition is mentioned and the entire "Basin Gulch Expedition, August 11-20, 1970" was reprinted from the Bigfoot Bulletin.

KLAM-ITY KOURIER, Willow Creek, California, September 30, 1970."Report On Bigfoot" column contains chapter 7 of a thesis titled "Bigfoot" written by Mrs. Patricia Dwyer as a B.A. requirement at Humboldt State College. The KLAM-ITY KOURIER has been printing installments of this thesis from time to time.

SUNDAY PIONEER PRESS, St Paul, Minn., September 27, 1970. "Nevada's Red-haired People Eaters" by Charles Hillinger, The Los Angeles Times. Concerns red-haired giant mummies allegedly found in caves in Nevada over the past sixty years. (Credit : Mark A. Hall)

THE DAILY PHANTAGRAPH, Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, August 11, 1970. "Hairy 'Human' Sighted At Kickapoo Creek" by James Keeran. (Credit : Loren E. Coleman)

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